(ख) इन वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि के कारण हैं :—मांग व आपूर्ति में अन्तर होना, गत कई वर्षों के दौरान दालों का उत्पादन स्थिर रहना, गत वर्ष के उत्पादन की तुलना में वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान चीनी के उत्पादन में कमी होना।

सरकार, आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि को रोकने तथा वर्ष भर उन्हें उपलब्ध कराने के लिए समय-समय पर सभी संभव कदम उठाती रही है। मूल्यों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए किए जाने वाले उपायों की समीक्षा मूल्यों संबंधी मंत्रि-मंडल समिति, सचिवों का विशेष कार्यवाही समिति तथा नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले व सार्व जनिक वितरण मंत्रालय द्वारा नियमित रूप से की जाती है। आवश्यक वस्तुओं की तेजी से ढुलाई में आने वाली आधार-ढांचे संबंधी बाधाओं को जल्द दूर किया जाता है और भारी कमी का सामना कर रहे क्षेत्रों में तत्काल आधार पर इन वस्तुओं की आपूर्ती की व्यवस्था की जाती है।

ESCALATION OF SUGAR PRICE

2292. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item which appeared in the Economic Times dated the 1st December, 1993 captioned "Sugar prices rise to Rs. 1,200 per quintal" ;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction towards high cost of sugar to consumers ;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance sugar supplies through the public distribution system ;

(d) whether Government propose to import to stem the high prices ; and

(e) what are the measure proposed by Government to reduce the price of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Sugar production which was 134.11 lakh tonnes in 1991-92 came down to 106.09 lakh tonnes in 1992-93 season. Production during 1993-94 is estimated at around 107 lakh tonnes. Due to limited availability in the country, it is not possible to enhance sugar supplies through the public distribution system.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The following measures are being taken by the Government to keep the price of sugar at reasonable levels :—

(i) Adequate quantities of free sale sugar are being released each month.

(ii) The State Governments have been requested to strictly enforce various regulatory orders pertaining to sugar dealers in respect of stock having limits turn over of stocks by traders within the prescribed time limit, sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another wholesaler etc. They have also been requesed to carry out periodic surprise raids to check unlawful trade practices.

(iii) Apart from ensuring sale/despatch of monthly free sale quota within the validity period by the end of the monht, sugar mills have also been directed to ensure sale/despatch of 47.5% of their quota during each fortnight.

INTERNATIONAL PRICE OF EDIBLE OILS

2293. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices prevailing in international markets for edible oils is much lower than our exportable prices ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that we still import edible oils for making up the shortage in domestic output and if so, how Government has presumed that there will be exportable surplus of edible oils ;

(c) wheher diverting this essential commodity for exports will adversely affect the domestic prices to the detriment of the consumer; and

(d) whether Government would reconsider its decision and keep the edible oils in the negative list, till such time that the domestic demands are fully met ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : The import of edible oils in limited quantities is resorted to supplement the indigeneous supplies at a time of higher demand and to contain the rise in their prices in the country. The Government considered it expedient to allow export of selected edible oils so as to develop export market which takes time. Because of the disparity in the domestic and international prices of edible oils, exports of edible oil in reality is likely to be not significant enough to affect the interest of the domestic consumers.

(d) Government will take appropriate remedial steps as and when the situation demands.

EXPORT OF EDIBLE OILS

2294. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have since decided to export edible oils ;

(b) if so, the details of the amount, itemwise likely to be exported ;

(c) whether the country is in a position to meet the domestic requirement from the internal production before exporting it; and

(d) if not, the reasons for deciding to export edible oils ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has recently permitted export of edible oils (except groundnut oil) in consumer packs upto 5 kg. It is understood that export of edible oils namely mustard oil, sesame oil is yet to materialise.

(c) and (d) While there seems to be some gap between domestic requirement and availability of edible oils from internal production, Government has considered it expedient to allow export of selected edible oils so as to develop export market which takes time. Because of the disparity in the domestic and international prices of edible oils, the quantity that may be exported is expected to be insignificant. Government will take appropriate remedial steps as and when the situation demands.

CALCULATION OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

2295. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price index of commodities of daily use is calculated at wholesale price level ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prices at the retail price level concern most to a common man ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not calculating price index at retail price level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Inflation is measured at the